

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. A method of enabling a transaction by a remote user for a service having an associated access number, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a request from the user via said access number at a central processing server;
- b) identifying the user from the request;
- c) determining a valid billing destination from a plurality of available billing destinations for the identified user; and
- d) effecting an authorization of the service for said user upon determination of a valid billing arrangement.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the service is a payment for car parking.

18. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the service is the obtaining of a desired product from a vending machine.

19. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the service is the obtaining of a ticket or receipt from a ticket dispensing machine or ticket collection service.

20. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the service is the obtaining of

a pass/ticket for a mass transit system.

21. (New) The method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the type of car parking is selected from one or more of the following: a) pay and display car parking b) meter bay car parking, and/or c) virtual parking.

22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the request is received from the user over a mobile telecommunication network.

23. (New) The method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the user is identified by means of a unique identifier specific to that user for use in the mobile telecommunication network.

24. (New) The method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the user is identified by means of a unique identifier specific to that user for use in the mobile telecommunication network and the unique identifier is an IMSI associated with a mobile telecommunication device associated with the user.

25. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the user is identified from the request by effecting a comparison of a user identifier specific to the user with a database of stored users.

26. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25 wherein the database is co-located with the central processing server.

27. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25 wherein the database is co-located with the central processing server, the method further comprising the step of, upon not effecting a matched identifier for the received user identifier within the co-located database, querying one or more remote databases, each of the queried databases being associated with a specific one of the plurality of available billing agents, so as to determine whether the received request is associatable with a subscriber to the one or more available billing agents.

28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25 wherein the database is co-located with the central processing server, the method further comprising the step of, upon not effecting a matched identifier for the received user identifier within the co-located database, querying one or more remote databases, each of the queried databases being associated with a specific one of the plurality of available billing agents, so as to determine whether the received request is associatable with a subscriber to the one or more available billing agents and wherein the querying of the remote database is effected in an order based upon a "best guess" principle.

29. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the available billing destinations include one or more telecommunications operators.

30. (New) A mobile commerce billing routing application system adapted to determine a correct billing destination from a plurality of available billing destinations for a transaction conducted by a mobile user, the system comprising:

- a) means for receiving a transaction initiated request from a mobile user,
- b) means for interrogating the request so as to determine whether the request is from an authorized user,
- c) means for associating the authorized user with one of a plurality of available billing destinations, the means for associating effecting said association based on an interrogation of the request,
- d) means for determining whether said authorized user is authorized to conduct said requested transaction,
- e) means for authorizing said transaction upon determination that the request is authorized, and
- f) means for debiting said user's account.